

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of accessing a network-connected content site comprising the following steps carried out at a network browser :

(a) receiving a sound-sequence signal representing [a] sound sequences with sound features that encode a character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the character sequence comprising two groups of characters, one of which is a site code intended to be translated to a content-site URI by a remote service system and the other of which comprises the address of the service system, the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined scheme being such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents the address of the service system;

(b) decoding the received sound-sequence signal to derive a said character sequence;

(c) detecting said two groups of characters in the character sequence with detection of said other group being taken as indicating that the site code formed by said one group is to be sent to the service system for translation; and

(d) sending the site code to the service system at its address indicated by said other group of characters, receiving back the corresponding content-site URI, and using it to access the content site.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the said other group of characters comprises the URI of the service system.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the URI of the service system is a URL

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 81, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said one group of characters.

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) said sound features are decoded into corresponding sound codewords which are then mapped to characters.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the sound features comprise one of:

- fixed-frequency tones or tone combinations;
- occurrence of maximum sound output power in predetermined frequency bands;
- changes in output frequency;
- different modulation frequencies of one or more tones.

11. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of the method are carried out by a voice browser.

12. (original) A method according to claim 1, including the further step of caching the correspondence of site code to site URI, step (c) involving checking this cache before contacting the service system.

13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the content site URI is a URL.

14-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of the method are carried out by end-user equipment.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the service system is connected to the internet and step (d) involves communicating with the service system over the internet.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the initial step of receiving said sound sequence and converting it into said sound sequence signal.

31-39 (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A method of accessing a network-connected content site with a network browser, said method comprising:

receiving a sound-sequence signal representing [a] sound sequences with sound features that encode a character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the character sequence comprising a service-system address and a site code indicative of said content site, the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined scheme being such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said service-system address;

decoding the received sound-sequence signal to derive said character sequence;
detecting the site code and service-system address in said character sequence;
sending the site code to a service system at said service-system address; and
receiving back from the service system a content-site URI corresponding to said site code, and

using the received content-site URI to access said content site.

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein the service-system address is in the form of an URI.

42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said site code.

44. (new) A method of encoding content-site access information, comprising:
generating a character sequence comprising two groups of characters, one of which is a content site code intended to be translated to a content-site URI by a service system and the other of which comprises the address of the service system; and
generating a sound-sequence signal representing sound sequences with sound features that encode said character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined scheme being such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said service-system address.

45. (new) A method according to claim 44, wherein the service-system address is in the form of an URI.

46. (new) A method according to claim 44, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said site code.

47. (new) Apparatus for encoding content-site access information, the apparatus comprising:

a character-sequence generator arranged to form a character sequence comprising two groups of characters, one of which is a content site code intended to be translated to a content-site URI by a service system and the other of which comprises the address of the service system; and

a sound-signal generator arranged to generate a sound-sequence signal representing sound sequences with sound features that encode said character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the nature of the sound features and of the

predetermined scheme being such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said service-system address.

48. (new) Apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the service-system address is in the form of an URI.

49. (new) Apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said site code.